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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/764,316	01/19/2001	Hisashi Yamagishi	Q61126	9360

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EXAMINER

HUNTER, ALVIN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/764,316

Applicant(s)

YAMAGISHI ET AL.

Examiner

Alvin A. Hunter

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/129,883.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4,6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION*****Comments***

It is noted that the applicant has filed several applications, several of which are claiming conflicting subject matter, and at least three of which contain identical claims, which have necessitated the following rejections and which have not been brought to the attention of the examiner. The applicant and applicant's attorneys are respectfully reminded of their obligation to bring to the attention of the office those other applications which are material to the examination of this case.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagishi et al. (USPN 5695413) in view of Yamagishi et al. (USPN 5779563) and

**OFFICIAL NOTICE.**

Yamagishi et al. discloses a multi-layered golf ball having a two-layered core and cover (See Figure1). The inner core has a distortion of 3.5mm under an applied load of 100kg (See Figure 1). The cover layer has a Shore D hardness of 50 to 60 with a thickness of 1.3 to 2.4mm, and the outer core layer has a Shore D hardness of 20-70 with a thickness of 1.3 to 2.5mm (Figure 2). The product of the Shore D hardness of the

Art Unit: 3711

outer core layer and cover would be 1000 to 4200 which is implied within Figure 2.

Yamagishi et al. (USPN 5695413) does not disclose dimples. Yamagishi et al. discloses a plurality of dimples, at least three types of dimples different in diameter, in which the largest diameter is 4.150mm having a dimple depth of .210mm, Vo of .48, and the smallest dimple diameter is 3.5mm having a dimple depth of .210mm in order to improve flying distance, controllability, straight travel, roll, and durability (See Table 3, Type II). In addition, Yamagishi et al. discloses a Vo of 0.40 to 0.65 in order to prevent a stall and descending trajectory (See Column 5, lines 38 through 47).

OFFICIAL NOTICE is taken that varying the amount of dimples on a golf ball affects the flight performance of the golf ball; therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art in view of the OFFICIAL NOTICE would have been motivated to have any number of dimples, such as 370 to 450, for the purpose of routine optimization for obtaining the desired flight performance for the golf ball.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to include the ball of Yamagishi et al. (USPN 5695413) to have a Shore D product of 1000 to 4200 in order to have a ball that minimizes damage when being impacted by a club. In view of Yamagishi et al. (USPN 5779563), it would have been obvious to modify the ball of Yamagishi et al. (USPN 5695413) to have type II dimples as defined by the claims in order to utilize a dimple pattern available in the market place to improve flying distance, controllability, straight travel, and roll.

### ***Specification***

Art Unit: 3711

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 10, of page 1, the word "provincial" should read --provisional--.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Double Patenting***

A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

3. Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of copending Application No. 09764307. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

4. Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of copending Application No. 09764139. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA

Art Unit: 3711

1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

5. Claims 2-5 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-6 of copending Application No. 09764307. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are patentably distinct from each other because the  $V_R$  ranges of Application No. 09764307 encompasses those of the present application. Clearly if the  $V_R$  ranges of the present application are within the  $V_R$  ranges of Application No. 09764307, It can achieve the same as that of Application No. 09764307; therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reduce the  $V_R$  ranges to any values in between the upper and lower limits of the range in order to optimize the flight performance of the golf ball.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

6. Claims 2-5 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of Application No. 09764139. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the  $V_R$  ranges of Application No. 09764139 encompasses those of the present application. Clearly if the  $V_R$  ranges of the present

Art Unit: 3711

application are within the  $V_R$  ranges of Application No. 09764139, It can achieve the same as that of Application No. 09764139; therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reduce the  $V_R$  ranges to any values in between the upper and lower limits of the range in order to optimize the flight performance of the golf ball.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

7. Claims 1-5 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of copending Application No. 09511898. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the  $V_R$  ranges of Application No. 09511898 are slightly smaller than that claimed in the present application. Though the  $V_R$  ranges are slightly smaller, values within the ranges claimed in the present application are encompassed within it; therefore, achieving the same results. Furthermore, one having skill in the art would recognize that varying the amount of dimples on a golf ball also affects the flight performance. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use any value within the  $V_R$  ranges or any number of dimples in order to optimize the flight performance of the golf ball.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

8. Claims 1-<sup>5 AAH</sup>~~6~~ are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3-16 of

Art Unit: 3711

copending Application No. 09129883. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the  $V_R$  ranges of Application No. 09129883 encompasses the  $V_R$  ranges claimed in the present application, which clearly suggests that the invention would achieve the same as that claimed in Application 09129883. Furthermore, one having skill in the art would recognize that varying the amount of dimple on a golf ball would affect the flight performance; therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use any  $V_R$  value and any number of dimples in order to optimize the flight performance of the golf ball.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin A. Hunter whose telephone number is 703-306-5693. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Sewell, can be reached on (703) 308-2126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-7768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.



Application/Control Number: 09/764,316

Page 8

Art Unit: 3711



**Paul T. Sewell**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Group 3700**